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(1) M.B.H.
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MEDICAL OFFICER.

ANNUAL REPORT

Upon the HEALTH of BLACKBURN for the year 1942

By

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Victoria Street,
Blackburn.

August, 1943.

Mr. Chairmen, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the Health of the Borough for the year 1942, which, like its war-time predecessors has been confined to essentials.

I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Health, Maternity & Child Welfare, and Blind Persons Act Committees for their courtesy and encouragement. At the same time I wish to express my deep appreciation of the willing and cheerful manner in which members of the Health Department staff have accepted the additional responsibilities placed upon them by staff shortage, together with the calls of Civil Defence. To them and to you, Mr. Chairmen, Ladies & Gentlemen, I am greatly indebted for unfailing support.

Your obedient servant,



VITAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| | 1942 |
| Area (in acres) | 8,080 |
| Rateable Value | £736906 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £2876 |
| Rate in £ (Excluding Water) 1942-43 | 13/6d + |
| Gross Expenditure on Health Services | £75664 + |
| Income on Health Social Services | £34560 * |
| Net Expenditure on Health Social Services | £41104 |
| + Subject to 2½% discount for early payment. | |
| * This sum does not include any money received through the Block Grant. | |
| Birth-Rate | 14.3 |
| Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth, from:- | |
| Sepsis | 0) 0.00) per 1000 births and |
| Other causes | 5) 3.13) stillbirths. |
| Still Births | 75 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births | 49.3 |
| Death-rate | 14.9 |
| Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions | 56.5 |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 live births: | |
| Legitimate | 60.6 |
| Illegitimate | 104.6 |
| All Infants | 63.1 |
| Death-rate from Measles (all ages) | 0.00 |
| " " " Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0.09 |
| " " " Diarrhoea (under two years of age) (per 1000 births) | 6.57 |
| " " " Cancer (all ages) | 2.11 |

| Wards | Birth Rate | Deaths under one year per 1000 Births. | Death-rate from six Zymotic Diseases excluding Diarrhoea. | Death rate from Diarrhoea. | Death-rate from Bronchitis and Pneumonia. | Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | Death-rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. |
|---------------|------------|--|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| St. Stephen's | 16.5 | 21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.10 | 1.05 | 0.17 |
| Trinity | 13.7 | 94 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 1.88 | 0.86 | 0.00 |
| St. Michael's | 14.7 | 91 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 1.48 | 0.94 | 0.13 |
| St. John's | 14.4 | 111 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.31 | 0.53 | 0.00 |
| St. Silas' | 9.9 | 64 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 1.14 | 0.38 | 0.00 |
| St. Paul's | 18.2 | 42 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.47 | 0.78 | 0.13 |
| St. Peter's | 12.8 | 116 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 2.98 | 0.56 | 0.00 |
| St. Mary's | 13.7 | 16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.92 | 1.12 | 0.00 |
| St. Matthew's | 13.0 | 52 | 0.27 | 0.13 | 2.03 | 0.13 | 0.00 |
| St. Thomas' | 12.3 | 33 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 1.54 | 0.41 | 0.20 |
| Park | 17.0 | 75 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 2.43 | 0.25 | 0.12 |
| St. Luke's | 15.2 | 104 | 0.31 | 0.15 | 2.69 | 0.47 | 0.00 |
| St. Mark's | 13.2 | 52 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 2.56 | 0.34 | 0.23 |
| St. Andrew's | 15.1 | 63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.93 | 0.32 | 0.10 |
| | 14.3 | 63 | 0.04 | 0.09 | 2.11 | 0.58 | 0.09 |

S A N I T A R Y C I R C U M S T A N C E S .

WATER. The usual chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water have been carried out, and the results on the whole have been good.

HOUSING.

| | |
|--|------|
| Total number of dwellinghouses inspected | 2155 |
|--|------|

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 9 |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority | 886 |
|--|-----|

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 212 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|---|--|
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
|---|--|

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| (a) By Owners | 113 |
|---------------|-----|

| | |
|---|----|
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | 10 |
|---|----|

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

One house represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, has been reconditioned, and 6 houses similarly represented have been closed.

With the exception of 17 houses demolished in completion of previous Clearance Orders, no action has been undertaken in the Slum Clearance Programme.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

| | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 160 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|---|--|
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
|---|--|

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| (a) By owners | 110 |
|---------------|-----|

| | |
|---|---|
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | - |
|---|---|

NUISANCES DEALT WITH:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------|-----|
| Dwellinghouses | 1569 | Drains | 199 |
| Bakehouses | 186 | Water Closets | 136 |
| Dairies, Cowsheds | | Pail Closets | 19 |
| & Milkshops | 17 | Offensive Trades | 50 |
| Ice Cream | | Common Lodging Houses | 20 |
| Manufacturers | 34 | Other premises &c. | 139 |
| Workshops | 17 | | |

The total number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors was 16,698.

At the end of the year action was pending or work actually in progress in respect of premises upon the owners of which informal (86) and formal (62) notices had been served.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 25 premises registered for the carrying out of offensive trades.

Six premises registered for bone-dealing and processing are not now used as such owing to the Government's centralisation scheme.

One business, that of a bone-boiler and fat-melter and which had been the cause of frequent and justified complaint on the part of residents, has now been discontinued.

FOOD SUPPLY.MILK.

One hundred and sixty samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination, of which 5 were found not to be genuine. In addition 1026 samples were examined for the presence of dirt.

The average composition of samples of milk was 3.74% of fat and 8.77% of other solids.

The Clean Milk Competition again attracted a large number

of entries. Samples submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination indicated satisfactory methods of production, and visits paid to farm premises proved the care and attention which the farmers are paying to milk production.

OTHER FOODS:

Two hundred and twenty-two samples of other foods and drugs were sent for analysis and 17 were found to be adulterated. Appropriate steps were taken in each of the latter cases.

MEAT AND FISH:

(a) Cattle Market

Approximate number of animals exposed for sale:-

4860 Cattle, 12959 Sheep, 4709 Calves, 2055 Pigs, 1 Horse.

(b) Public Abattoir.

The number of animals slaughtered was 36,753 and was made up as follows:-

Beasts 4422, Sheep 28356, Calves 3088, Pigs 886, Goats 1.

Nine hundred and three animals showed signs of Tuberculosis, and 136 carcasses were totally rejected. Two hundred and six carcasses were rejected for diseases, &c. other than tuberculosis.

(c) Other Foodstuffs.

The amount of foodstuffs condemned is, in the aggregate, less than in 1941, and, with the exception of certain items included in the appended Table, does not represent a largely increased wastage as compared with 1939.

1942

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Boxes of Fish | 190 + 340 lbs. loose |
| Various tinned goods | 11312 |
| Rabbits | 39 |
| Vegetables and fruit | 13 tons 7 cwt. |
| Fowl | — |
| Tee. | 535 lbs. |
| Eggs | 7680 |
| Preserved meats, Bacon, etc. | 286 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. |
| Miscellaneous items - | |
| Trotters | 10 bags |
| Offals | 10 bags |
| Yeast | 3 bags |

(d) Visits.

Four thousand two hundred and seventy visits were paid to butchers' shops &c. during the year.

FERTILIZERS & FEEDING STUFFS.

Eleven samples were taken, 6 of which did not conform to the Statutory Statement. Appropriate steps were taken in the six latter cases.

ICE CREAM.

One hundred and ninety-four visits were paid in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 186 visits were paid to food preparing premises. Generally speaking both the premises and methods employed were found to be satisfactory. Proceedings were taken against the occupier of unregistered premises used for the preparation of pickles. He was fined 40/- and costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.VACCINATION.

Of the 1887 births registered, 583 children only were successfully vaccinated. The number of exemptions was 1101.

CORPORATION HOSPITAL.

Three hundred and sixty cases of infectious disease were removed to Hospital. There were 19 deaths. The average number of hospital patient-days was 30.6 and the average number of beds occupied was 30.2.

In addition to the above, 99 cases of Tuberculosis were treated of which 18 died.

One thousand four hundred and nine specimens were examined at the hospital laboratory.

All cases (82) of Diphtheria notified were removed to Hospital. The case mortality rate was 6.18 per cent. Speaking generally the patients had received adequate antitoxin treatment prior to Hospitalisation.

Scarlet Fever cases were, on the whole, of mild type. Of 254 cases notified 185 (72 per cent) were removed to hospital. Practically all removals were in respect of persons whose home circumstances did not permit efficient isolation and/or nursing care.

Twenty-three cases were admitted as Cerebro-spinal Fever. In 16 cases the diagnosis was confirmed, and of these 4 died. Of the remaining 7 cases the diagnosis proved to be Tuberculous Meningitis 1, Pneumococcal Meningitis 1, Acute Mania 1, Streptococcal Septicaemia 1, Otitis Media, Pyelitis and Nephritis 1 each.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CORPORATION HOSPITAL.

| DISEASE | Total cases Notified. | Number residing outside of Borough. | Total Deaths. | Number of cases admitted. | Number residing outside of Borough. | Proved to be other diseases. | Total deaths | Deaths of patients residing outside of Borough. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Diphtheria | 82 | 1 | 4 | 97 | 12 | 35 | 6 | 1 |
| Scarlet Fever | 254 | 4 | - | 185 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 18 | - | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Purpuroral Pyrexia | 19 | 6 | - | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 13 | 1 | - | 12 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Measles | 804 | - | - | 11 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 147 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 117 | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Meningitis | 20 | 3 | 8 | 23 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| Other diseases | 6 | - | - | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Total | 1480 | 18 | 15 | 360 | 40 | 58 | 19 | 7 |

PREVENTION OF DIPHTHERIA & SCARLET FEVER.

Nine hundred and one school children and 1561 pre-school children received Anti-Diphtheria treatment. Alum precipitated toxoid was the prophylactic employed.

GENERAL.

A total of 804 cases of Measles was brought to the notice of the Department by formal notification or otherwise during the year. Although measles serum is not used in the

Borough, immune globulin is available for the use of general practitioners and is employed at the Hospital to prevent ward cross-infection.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

One hundred and forty-one cases (109 Pulmonary and 32 non-pulmonary) were notified during the year.

There were 72 (62 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary) deaths in 1942.

Medical practitioners referred 326 cases to the Dispensary for examination by the Tuberculosis Officer, who also held 745 consultations with private practitioners. Dispensary attendances numbered 2699; 908 X-ray and 740 Bacteriological examinations were made. One hundred and five Contacts were investigated at the Dispensary. The nurse made 2431 visits to homes of patients.

In-patient arrangements have been fully described in previous reports. The use made of available facilities for pulmonary cases was Meathop 18 cases admitted with 3 deaths and 15 discharges, Delamere 2 cases, and the Corporation Hospital 99 cases (79 discharges, 18 deaths). One new case received treatment at the Robert Jones Hospital and one was discharged. Queen's Park Hospital receives both pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases, and during the year 16 cases were admitted, and 10 patients were discharged and 4 died.

As a result of discussions which began in 1942 the County Council and the Town Council have both accepted the principle of an amalgamation of the Town Council's Tuberculosis Scheme

with that of the County Council. It is to be regretted that existing staff and bed shortage and present abnormal conditions may tend to retard the implementation of a scheme which will enable the Borough to enjoy a more comprehensive service than its comparatively small population can, of itself, support.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 13 cases at the Corporation Hospital, and a total of 343 refills were carried out. Eighteen cases had gold therapy, 204 injections being given.

Mr. Briggs conducts regular Orthopaedic Clinics at the Health Department, and advised upon 44 cases of bone and joint tuberculosis, which he treated as necessary. The majority of cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Mr. Briggs' beds at Queen's Park and selected cases are sent to the Robert Jones Hospital, Oswestry.

Dental Treatment. Six sessions were held and 16 patients received Dental Treatment. Necessitous cases requiring artificial dentures have been given financial assistance.

V E N E R E A L D I S E A S E S .

Appended are particulars of cases treated under the Council's Scheme during 1942:-

Royal Infirmary.

| | <u>M</u> | <u>F</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| New cases - Venereal | 149 | 85 | 234 |
| - Non-Venereal | 234 | 157 | 391 |
| Discharged cured | 301 | 174 | 475 |
| Ceased to attend | 65 | 103 | 168 |
| Transferred to other Centres | 23 | 23 | 46 |
| Attendances | | | 13379 |
| In-patient treatment | 8 | 6 | 14 |

Health Department.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|----|------|
| New cases - Venereal | - | 26 | 26 |
| - Non-Venereal | - | 68 | 68 |
| Discharged cured | - | 71 | 71 |
| Ceased to attend | - | 32 | 32 |
| Transferred to other Centres | - | 3 | 3 |
| Attendances | - | - | 1028 |
| In-patient treatment | - | - | - |

M A T E R N I T Y & C H I L D W E L F A R E .ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

One hundred and ninety sessions were held, at which 1061 cases made 5097 attendances. There were 110 cases of abnormal labour.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Forty-eight sessions were held, and 64 cases made 136 attendances. Fifty-three cases were abnormal.

MIDWIVES.

Fifty-five midwives notified their intention to practice during the year. Of these 49 remained in practice at the end of the year. Three hundred and sixty-nine medical aid forms were received.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

During the year the Municipal Midwifery service dealt with 382 midwifery cases and 71 maternity cases. Ante-natal visits numbered 5254, and there were 6837 visits to midwifery cases and 1379 visits to maternity cases.

SPRINGFIELD MATERNITY HOME.

Three hundred and ninety-three cases were admitted, and the average duration of stay was 14 days. Three hundred and sixty-seven cases were delivered, 292 by the staff and 75 by doctors. There were no maternal deaths. There were 9 stillbirths, and 9 babies died within 10 days.

Fifty-two ante-natal clinic sessions were held and 1791 attendances were made (323 first visits, and 1468 re-attendances). Eighteen cases were admitted for ante-natal treatment.

QUEEN'S PARK HOSPITAL.

Nine hundred and eighteen cases were admitted during the

year, and the average duration of stay was 12.75 days. Eight hundred and sixty-one cases were delivered, 820 by midwives and 41 by doctors. There were 4 maternal deaths from the following causes:- (1) Cardiac failure, Paralytic ileus, Mesenteric Thrombosis, Septic Endometritis, (2) Ante-Partum Haemorrhage, Cardiac failure, Obstetric shock, (3) Eclampsia & Cardiac failure, (4) Delayed Post-partum haemorrhage.

There were 43 stillbirths, and 33 babies died within 10 days.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Nineteen cases were notified, 13 of which resided in the Borough. Seven cases occurred in institutions. Two of the 13 cases died.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Fourteen deaths occurred due to or associated with childbirth. Of this number 5 were in respect of Borough residents and were due to pregnancy. The latter cases were carefully investigated and, with two exceptions, appear to have been unpreventable. The first exception was certified as being due to "Obstetric shock, Cardiac failure, Ante-partum haemorrhage", and it is possible, though doubtfully so, that death might have been prevented had more active obstetrical measures been followed than was the case.

Whether or not death of the second exception, "Toxaemia due to Septicaemia following a Septic Abortion ; Natural causes" might have been prevented is even more doubtful, although the possibility does exist. The remaining three fatal cases received adequate medical and nursing care, co-operated fully and intelligently, and are to be classed as unavoidable deaths.

STILLBIRTHS.

One hundred and five cases of stillbirth were notified, 90 of which were Borough cases and 15 out of the Borough.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

Fifty-eight infants died within two months of birth.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

There were 59 premature infants born during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year there were 96 deaths of infants under one year of age. This figure gives an infantile mortality rate of 63 per 1000 live births registered.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Thirteen cases were notified during the year. Twelve of the cases recovered, and 1 died.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

There were 33,779 attendances and 6573 consultations with doctors.

Expectant mothers made 616 attendances.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The Dentists held 43 sessions for Maternity cases, at which 144 mothers and 34 children were treated.

HEALTH VISITORS.

The Health Visitors made a total of 22178 visits during the year, and assisted at 1311 clinics.

SUPPLY OF MILK FREE OR AT LESS THAN COST PRICE.

One hundred and thirty-three new cases were dealt with during the year, and there were 28 cases on the books at the

end of the year. A total of 34041 lbs. of dried milk was supplied during the period under review.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Nine new cases were notified during the year. Four cases removed out of the Borough, and 10 returned to their parents or relatives. Nine cases remained on the register at the end of the year. All the children are satisfactorily housed and cared for.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

No new Nursing or Maternity Homes were opened during the year.

CHILD MINDERS.

The arrangements made, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, for the registration of women suitable as "child minders" for the care of young children of women engaged on work of national importance, has been continued during the year.

During the year 159 applications were forwarded to the Local branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service as being suitable for the work after their home environment had been investigated by the Health Visitors. Fifteen women were taken off the register, having commenced work or for other reasons, leaving 193 on the register at the end of the year. The number of children nursed by child minders is 134.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

Three Nurseries, (Holden House, St. Alban's Place and Hollymount) were opened during the year, and between them offer accommodation to 42 resident and 47 non-resident children of pre-school age. Although they have been well

patronised (the number on rolls exceeding actual places by approximately 25 per cent) attendances have, from time to time, been disappointingly low owing to the prevalence of, inter alia, mumps, whooping cough, chicken pox and diarrhoea.

Whilst, owing to the very large proportion of children in attendance who have been immunised against diphtheria, we have little fear of this disease attacking our nurseries, the same complacency does not prevail as regards other infections. These, it is feared, will continue to visit the nurseries from time to time with resultant administrative upset and absenteeism.